AN

ATTESTED COPY

OF THE

Rev. JOHN WESLEY's

DECLARATION AND ESTABLISHMENT

OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PEOPLE

CALLED

METHODISTS.

Enroll'd in his MAJESTY's High Court of CHANCERY.

Dated LONDON, the 28th of *February*, MDCCLXXXIV.

A DECLARATION, &c.

To All to whom these Preſents ſhall come,

JOHN WESLEY, late of LINCOLN-COLLEGE, *Oxford*, but now of the *City-Road*, LONDON, Clerk, ſendeth greeting:

WHEREAS divers Buildings commonly called Chappels, with a Meſſuage and Dwelling-Houſe, or other Appurtenances to each of the ſame belonging, ſituate in various Parts of *Great-Britain*, have been given and conveyed from Time to Time by the ſaid *John Weſley* to certain Perſons and their Heirs in each of the ſaid Gifts and Conveyances named; which are inrolled in his Majeſty's High Court of Chancery, upon the Acknowledgment of the ſaid *John Weſley*, (purſuant to the Act of Parliament in that caſe made and provided) UPON TRUST, that the Truſtees in the ſaid ſeveral Deeds reſpectively named and the Survivors of them and their Heirs and Aſſigns, and the Truſtees for the time being to be elected as in the ſaid Deeds is appointed, ſhould permit and ſuffer the ſaid JOHN WESLEY and ſuch other Perſon and Perſons as he ſhould for that purpoſe from time to time nominate and appoint, at all times during his Life at his will and pleaſure to have and enjoy the free uſe and benefit of the ſaid Premiſes, that he the ſaid John Weſley and ſuch perſon and perſons as he ſhould nominate and appoint, might therein preach and expound God's Holy Word: And upon further Truſt that the ſaid reſpective Truſtees and the Survivors of them, and their Heirs and Aſſigns, and the Truſtees for the Time being, ſhould permit and ſuffer CHARLES WESLEY, Brother of the ſaid John Weſley, and ſuch other Perſon and Perſons, as the ſaid Charles Weſley ſhould for that purpoſe from time to time nominate and appoint, in like manner during his Life—To Have, uſe, and enjoy the ſaid Premiſes reſpectively for the like purpoſes as aforeſaid: and after the Deceaſe of the Survivor of them the ſaid John Weſley and Charles Weſley, THEN UPON FURTHER TRUST, that the ſaid reſpective Truſtees and the Survivors of them and their Heirs and Aſſigns, and the Truſtees for the time being for ever, ſhould permit and ſuffer ſuch Perſon and Perſons and for ſuch time and times as ſhould be appointed at the *Yearly Conference of the People called Methodiſts in London*, *Briſtol*, or *Leeds*, and no others, to have and enjoy the ſaid Premiſes for the purpoſes aforeſaid: AND WHEREAS divers Perſons have in like manner given or conveyed many Chappels, with Meſſuages and Dwelling-houſes or other Appurtenances to the ſame belonging, ſituate in various parts of Great-Britain, and alſo in Ireland, to certain Truſtees, in each of the ſaid Gifts and Conveyances reſpectively named UPON the like Truſts, and for the ſame Uſes and Purpoſes as aforeſaid, (except only that in ſome of the ſaid gifts and conveyances, no Life Eſtate or other Intereſt is therein or thereby given and reſerved to the ſaid Charles Weſley). AND WHEREAS, for rendering effectual the Truſts created by the ſaid ſeveral gifts or conveyances, and that no doubt or litigation may ariſe with reſpect unto the ſame, or the Interpretation and true meaning thereof, it has been thought expedient by the ſaid John Weſley, on behalf of himſelf as Donor of the ſeveral Chappels, with the Meſſuages, Dwelling-Houſes, or Appurtenances before-mentioned, as of the Donors of the ſaid other Chappels, with the Meſſuages, Dwelling-houſes or Appurtenances to the ſame belonging

given or conveyed to the like Uſes and Truſts, to explain the Words *Yearly Conference of the People called Methodiſts*, contained in all the ſaid Truſt Deeds, and to declare *What Perſons* are Members of the ſaid Conference, and how the *Succeſſion* and *Identity* thereof is to be continued: *Now therefore theſe Preſents Witneſs* that for accompliſhing the aforeſaid purpoſes, the ſaid John Weſley doth hereby declare, that the Conference of the People called Methodiſts, in London, Briſtol, or Leeds, ever ſince there hath been any Yearly Conference of the ſaid People called Methodiſts in any of the ſaid Places, hath always heretofore conſiſted of the Preachers and Expounders of God's Holy Word, commonly called Methodiſt Preachers, in connection with, and under the care of the ſaid John Weſley, whom he hath thought expedient Year after Year to Summons to meet him, in one or other of the ſaid Places, of London, Briſtol, or Leeds, to adviſe with them for the promotion of the Goſpel of Chriſt, to appoint the ſaid Perſons ſo ſummoned, and the other Preachers and Expounders of God's Holy Word, alſo in connection with, and under the care of the ſaid John Weſley, not ſummoned to the ſaid Yearly Conference, to the uſe and enjoyment of the ſaid Chappels and Premiſes ſo given and conveyed upon truſt for the ſaid John Weſley, and ſuch other Perſon and Perſons as he ſhould appoint during his Life as aforeſaid, and for the expulſion of unworthy and admiſſion of new Perſons under his care and into his connection to be Preachers and Expounders as aforeſaid, and alſo of other Perſons upon trial for the like purpoſes; the Names of all which Perſons ſo ſummoned by the ſaid John Weſley, the Perſons appointed with the Chappels and Premiſes to which they were ſo appointed, together with the duration of ſuch appointments, and of thoſe expelled or admitted into connection or upon trial, with all other matters tranſacted and done at the ſaid Yearly Conference, have Year by Year been Printed and Publiſhed under the title of Minutes of Conference. *And theſe Preſents further Witneſs*, and the ſaid John Weſley doth hereby avouch and further declare, that the ſeveral Perſons herein after named, to wit, the ſaid *John Weſley, and Charles Weſley, Thomas Coke*, of the City of London, Doctor of Civil Law, *James Creighton*, of the ſame Place, Clerk, *Thomas Tennant*, of the ſame Place, *Thomas Rankin*, of the ſame Place, *Joſhua Kighley* of Seven Oaks, in the County of Kent, *James Wood*, of Rocheſter, in the ſaid County of Kent, *John Booth*, of Colcheſter, *Thomas Cooper*, of the ſame Place, *Richard Whatcoat*, of Norwich, *Jeremiah Brittel*, of Lynn, in the County of Norfolk, *Jonathan Parkin*, of the ſame Place, *Joſeph Peſcod*, of Bedford, *Chriſtopher Watkins*, of Northampton, *John Barber*, of the ſame Place, *John Broadbent*, of Oxford, *Joſeph Cole*, of the ſame Place, *Jonathan Couſens*, of the City of Glouceſter, *John Brittel*, of the ſame Place, *John Maſon*, of Saliſbury, *George Story*, of the ſame Place, *Francis Wrigley*, of St. Auſtell, in the County of Cornwall, *William Green*, of the City of Briſtol, *John Moon*, of Plymouth Dock, *James Hall*, of the ſame Place, *James Thom*, of St. Auſtell aforeſaid, *Joſeph Taylor*, of Redruth, in the ſaid County of Cornwall, *William Hoſkins*, of Cardiff, Glamorganſhire, *John Leech*, of Brecon, *William Saunders*, of the ſame Place, *Richard Rodda*, of Birmingham, *John Fenwick*, of Burſlam, Staffordſhire, *Thomas Hanby*, of the ſame Place, *James Rogers*, of Macclesfield, *Samuel Bardſley*, of the ſame Place, *John Murlin*, of Manchester, *William Percival*, of the ſame Place, *Duncan Wright*, of the City of Cheſter, *John Goodwin*, of the ſame Place, *Parſon Greenwood*, of Liverpool, *Zachariah Udall*, of the ſame Place, *Thomas Vaſey*, of the ſame Place, *Joſeph Bradford*, of Leiceſter, *Jeremiah Robertſhaw*, of the ſame Place, *William Myles*, of Nottingham, *Thomas Longley*, of Derby, *Thomas Taylor*, of Sheffield, *William Simpſon*, of the ſame Place, *Thomas Carlill's*, of Grimſby, in the County of Lincoln, *Robert Scott*, of the ſame Place, *Joſeph Harper*, of the ſame Place, *Thomas Corbitt*, of Gainſborough, in the ſaid County of Lincoln, *James Ray*, of the ſame Place, *William Thompſon*, of Leeds, in the County of York, *Robert Roberts*, of the ſame Place, *Samuel Bradburn*, of the ſame Place, *John Valton* of Birſtal, in the ſaid County, *John Allen*, of the ſame Place, *Iſaac Brown*, of the ſame Place, *Thomas Hanſon*, of Huddersfield, in the ſaid County, *John Shaw* of the ſame Place, *Alexander Mather*, of Bradforth, in the ſaid County, *Joſeph Benſon*, of Halifax in the ſaid County, *William Dufton*, of the ſame Place, *Benjamin Rhodes*, of Kighley, in the ſaid County, *John Eaſton*, of Coln, in the County of Lancaſter, *Robert*

bert Coſterdine, of the ſame Place, *Jaſper Robinſon*, of the Iſle of Man, *George Button*, of the ſame Place, *John Pawſon*, of the City of York, *Edward Jackſon*, of Hull, *Charles Atmore*, of the ſaid City of York, *Launcelot Harriſon*, of Scarborough, *George Shadford*, of Hull aforeſaid, *Barnabas Thomas*, of the ſame Place, *Thomas Briſcoe*, of Yarm, in the ſaid County of York, *Chriſtopher Peacock*, of the ſame Place, *William Thom*, of Whitby, in the ſaid County of York, *Robert Hopkins*, of the ſame Place, *John Peacock*, of Barnard Caſtle, *William Collins*, of Sunderland, *Thomas Dixon*, of Newcaſtle upon Tyne, *Chriſtopher Hopper*, of the ſame Place, *William Boothby*, of the ſame Place, *William Hunter*, of Berwick upon Tweed, *Joſeph Saunderſon*, of Dundee, Scotland, *William Warrener*, of the ſame Place, *Duncan Mc Allum*, of Aberdeen, Scotland, *Thomas Rutherford*, of the City of Dublin, in the Kingdom of Ireland, *Daniel Jackſon*, of the ſame Place, *Henry Moore*, of the City of Cork, Ireland, *Andrew Blair*, of the ſame Place, *Richard Watkinſon*, of Limerick, Ireland, *Nehemiah Price*, of Athlone, Ireland, *Robert Lindſay*, of Sligo, Ireland, *George Brown*, of Clones, Ireland, *Thomas Barber*, of Charlemount, Ireland, *Henry Foſter*, of Belfaſt, Ireland, and *John Crook*, of Lifburn, Ireland, Gentlemen, being Preachers and Expounders of God's Holy Word, under the care and in connection with the ſaid John Wefley, have been, and now are, and do, on the day of the date hereof conſtitute the *Members of the ſaid Conference*, according to the true intent and meaning of the ſaid ſeveral gifts and conveyances wherein the words *Conference of the People called Methodiſts* are mentioned and contained. And that the ſaid ſeveral Perſons before-named, and their ſucceſſors for ever, to be choſen as herein after mentioned, are and ſhall for ever be conſtrued, taken and be the *Conference of the People called Methodiſts*. Nevertheleſs upon the terms and ſubject to the regulations herein-after preſcribed, that is to ſay,

Firſt, That the Members of the ſaid Conference and their Succeſſors for the time being for ever, ſhall aſſemble once in every Year, at London, Briſtol, or Leeds (except as after mentioned) for the purpoſes aforeſaid; and the Time and Place of holding every ſubſequent Conference ſhall be appointed at the preceding one, ſave that the next Conference after the date hereof, ſhall be holden at *Leeds* in Yorkſhire, the laſt Tueſday in July next.

Second. The Act of the Majority in Number of the Conference aſſembled as aforeſaid, ſhall be had, taken, and be the Act of the whole Conference to all Intents, Purpoſes, and Conſtructions whatſoever.

Third. That after the Conference ſhall be aſſembled as aforeſaid, they ſhall firſt proceed to fill up all the Vacancies occaſioned by death or abſence as after mentioned.

Fourth. No Act of the Conference aſſembled as aforeſaid, ſhall be had taken or be the Act of the Conference, until Forty of the Members thereof are aſſembled, unleſs reduced under that number by Death ſince the prior Conference or Abſence as after mentioned; nor untill all the Vacancies occaſioned by death or Abſence ſhall be filled up by the Election of new Members of the Conference, ſo as to make up the number One Hundred, unleſs there be not a ſufficient number of Perſons Objects of ſuch Election: and during the Aſſembly of the Conference there ſhall always be Forty members preſent at the doing of any Act, ſave as aforeſaid, or otherwiſe ſuch Act ſhall be void.

Fifth. The Duration of the Yearly Aſſembly of the Conference, ſhall not be leſs than five Days, nor more than three Weeks, and be concluded by the Appointment of the Conference, if under twenty-one days; or otherwiſe the concluſion thereof ſhall follow of courſe at the end of the ſaid twenty-one days; the whole of all which ſaid time of the Aſſembly of the Conference ſhall be had, taken, conſidered, and be the Yearly Conference of the People called Methodiſts, and all Acts of the Conference during ſuch Yearly Aſſembly thereof, ſhall be the Acts of the Conference and none others.

Sixth. Immediately after all the Vacancies occaſioned by Death or Abſence are filled up by the Election of new Members as aforeſaid, the Conference ſhall chuſe a Preſident and Secretary of their Aſſembly out of themſelves, who ſhall continue ſuch untill the Election of another Preſident

or

or Secretary in the next, or other ſubſequent Conference; and the ſaid Preſident ſhall have the Privilege and Power of two Members in all Acts of the Conference during his Preſidency, and ſuch other Powers, Privileges and Authorities, as the Conference ſhall from time to time ſee fit to entruſt into his Hands.

Seventh. Any Member of the Conference abſenting himſelf from the Yearly Aſſembly thereof for two Years ſucceſſively without the conſent or diſpenſation of the Conference, and be not preſent on the firſt Day of the third yearly Aſſembly thereof at the time and place appointed for the holding of the ſame, ſhall ceaſe to be a Member of the Conference from and after the ſaid firſt Day of the ſaid third yearly Aſſembly thereof, to all intents and purpoſes, as though he was naturally dead. But the Conference ſhall and may diſpenſe with or conſent to the abſence of any Member from any of the ſaid yearly Aſſemblies, for any cauſe which the Conference may ſee fit or neceſſary, and ſuch Member whoſe Abſence ſhall be ſo diſpenſed with, or conſented to by the Conference, ſhall not by ſuch Abſence ceaſe to be a Member thereof.

Eighth. The Conference ſhall and may expell and put out from being a Member thereof, or from being in connection therewith, or from being upon trial, any Perſon Member of the Conference, admitted into connection, or upon Trial, for any cauſe which to the Conference may ſeem fit or neceſſary; and every Member of the Conference ſo expelled and put out, ſhall ceaſe to be a Member thereof to all intents and purpoſes, as though he was naturally dead. And the Conference immediately after the Expulſion of any Member thereof as aforeſaid, ſhall elect another Perſon to be a Member of the Conference in the ſtead of ſuch Member ſo expelled.

Ninth. The Conference ſhall and may admit into connection with them, or upon Trial, any Perſon or Perſons whom they ſhall approve, to be Preachers and Expounders of God's Holy Word, under the care and direction of the Conference, the name of every ſuch Perſon or Perſons ſo admitted into connection or upon Trial as aforeſaid, with the time and degrees of the admiſſion, being entered in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference.

Tenth. No Perſon ſhall be elected a Member of the Conference who hath not been admitted in connection with the Conference as a Preacher and Expounder of God's Holy Word, as aforeſaid, for twelve Months.

Eleventh. The Conference ſhall not nor may nominate or appoint any Perſon to the uſe and Enjoyment of, or to preach and expound God's Holy Word in, any of the Chappels and Premiſes ſo given or conveyed, or which may be given or conveyed upon the Truſts aforeſaid, who is not either a Member of the Conference, or admitted into Connection with the ſame, or upon Trial as aforeſaid; nor appoint any Perſon for more than three Years ſucceſſively to the uſe and enjoyment of any Chappels and Premiſes already given, or to be given or conveyed upon the Truſts aforeſaid, except ordained Miniſters of the Church of England

Twelfth. That the Conference ſhall and may appoint the Place of holding the Yearly Aſſembly thereof at any other City, Town, or Place than London, Briſtol or Leeds, when it ſhall ſeem expedient ſo to do.

Thirteenth. And for the Convenience of the Chappels and Premiſes already or which may hereafter be given or conveyed upon the Truſts aforeſaid, ſituate in Ireland or other Parts out of the Kingdom of Great-Britain, the Conference ſhall and may when and as often as it ſhall ſeem expedient, but not otherwiſe, appoint and delegate any Member or Members of the Conference with all or any of the Powers, Privileges, and Advantages herein before contained or veſted in the Conference; and all and every the Acts, Admiſſions, Expulſions, and Appointments whatſoever of ſuch Member or Members of the Conference ſo appointed and delegated as aforeſaid, the ſame being put into writing, and ſigned by ſuch Delegate or Delegates, and entered in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference and ſubſcribed as after mentioned, ſhall be deemed, taken and be, the Acts, Admiſſions, Expulſions, and Appointments of the Conference, to all Intents, Conſtructions and Purpoſes whatſoever from the reſpective Times, when the ſame ſhall be done by ſuch Delegate or Delegates; notwithſtanding any thing herein contained to the contrary.

Fourteenth.

Fourteenth. All Reſolutions and Orders touching Elections, Admiſſions, Expulſions, Conſents, Diſpenſations, Delegations, or Appointments and Acts whatſoever of the Conference ſhall be entered and written in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference which ſhall be kept for that purpoſe, publickly read, and then ſubſcribed by the Preſident and Secretary thereof for the time being, during the time ſuch Conference ſhall be aſſembled; and when ſo entered and ſubſcribed, ſhall be had, taken, received and be the Acts of the Conference, and ſuch Entry and Subſcription as aforeſaid ſhall be had, taken, received, and be Evidence of all and every ſuch Acts of the ſaid Conference and of their ſaid Delegates without the Aid of any other Proof; and whatever ſhall not be ſo entered and ſubſcribed as aforeſaid, ſhall not be had, taken, received, or be the Act of the Conference: and the ſaid Preſident and Secretary are hereby required and obliged to enter and ſubſcribe as aforeſaid every Act whatever of the Conference.

Laſtly. Whenever the ſaid Conference ſhall be reduced under the number of Forty Members, and continue ſo reduced for three Yearly Aſſemblies thereof ſucceſſively, or whenever the Members thereof ſhall decline or neglect to meet together annually for the purpoſes aforeſaid, during the ſpace of three Years, that then, and in either of the ſaid Events, the Conference of the People called Methodiſts ſhall be extinguiſhed, and all the aforeſaid Powers, Privileges, and Advantages ſhall ceaſe, and the ſaid Chappels and Premiſes, and all other Chappels and Premiſes which now are, or hereafter may be ſettled, given or conveyed, upon the truſts aforeſaid, ſhall veſt in the Truſtees for the time being of the ſaid Chappels and Premiſes reſpectively, and their Succeſſors for ever: UPON TRUST that they, and the ſurvivors of them, and the Truſtees for the time being, do, ſhall, and may appoint ſuch Perſon and Perſons to Preach and expound God's Holy Word therein, and to have the uſe and enjoyment thereof, for ſuch time, and in ſuch manner as to them ſhall ſeem proper.

Provided always that nothing herein contained ſhall extend or be conſtrued to extend, to extinguiſh, leſſen, or abridge the Life-Eſtate of the ſaid John Weſley, and Charles Weſley, or either of them, of and in any of the ſaid Chappels and Premiſes, or any other Chappels and Premiſes, wherein they the ſaid John Weſley, and Charles Weſley, or either of them now have, or may have any eſtate or intereſt, power or authority whatſoever. *In witneſs whereof the ſaid John Weſley hath hereunto ſet his Hand and Seal, the Twenty-eighth Day of February, in the Twenty-fourth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and ſo forth, and in the Year of our Lord, One Thouſand, Seven Hundred and Eighty-four.*

JOHN (*Seal*) WESLEY.

Sealed and Delivered (being firſt duly Stamped) in the Preſence of

WILLIAM CLULOW, *Quality-Court, Chancery-Lane, London.*

RICHARD YOUNG, Clerk to the ſaid William Clulow.

The above is a true Copy of the original Deed (which is enrolled in Chancery) and was therewith examined by us

WILLIAM CLULOW.
RICHARD YOUNG.

Dated 28th *Feby.* 1784.

AN

ATTESTED COPY

OF THE

Rev. *JOHN WESLEY's*

DECLARATION AND ESTABLISHMENT

OF THE

CONFERENCE of the PEOPLE

Called METHODISTS.

Enroll'd in his MAJESTY's High Court of

CHANCERY.

New Chapel
London.

METHODIST ARCHIVES
LAMPLOUGH COLLECTION
650 AND
RESEARCH CENTRE